

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully submitted.

Claim 60 has been amended to include the limitations of 69 and 70, which are now canceled. Claim 60 has further been amended to clarify that the "slots" are one that open to a bottom surface of the skate guard. Support for this further limitation can be found in the drawings and also in paragraph 0063 of the specification. This claimed combination of features is neither shown nor suggested in the prior art of record, and thus claim 60, as amended, is believed to be allowable.

Moreover, applicant maintains that one skilled in the art would have no reason to add the spring retainer of Fowlkes to the bolt-on retention system of Schutz. Fowlkes discloses one type of retaining system (a spring) and Schutz discloses an alternative (bolts). The system of Kassal (a spring) is similar to Fowlkes. There is no teaching or suggestion anywhere in the art of combining different systems, and this makes sense because the spring system is for quick release and the bolt on system is a more permanent connection. One skilled in the art using a bolt on connection would have no reason to supplement it with a quick-release spring connection, and vice-versa. The reason given by the examiner of providing extra security to the connection finds no support in the art and is counter-intuitive to the purpose of the quick disconnection purposed of the spring.

It is believed that this application now is in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,

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October 30, 2007

Date

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